

DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL

July 2018 UPDATE

Summer is flying by and college students are already making plans to leave for school. Typically, July is one of our toughest months. This year has maintained the trend. Treating catch basins, treating larval habitats, building additional greenhead fly traps for an extra heavy season of greenheads, trapping mosquitoes, regular truck routes, spraying for special events and scheduling all of the above around severe weather events filled our days and nights.

Summer may be half over, but mosquitoes show no signs of slowing down. In fact, in most of the country, mosquito numbers have increased this summer over the previous few years. Even though southern New Hampshire began the month in extremely dry conditions, above average rainfall in July brought the southern part of the state back into normal range and provided mosquitoes more breeding sites at the same time. Precipitation along with warm temperatures offer perfect conditions for mosquitoes. This is evident in your yards and in our traps.

Mosquito monitoring allows us to assess the disease risk. Surveillance crews set out and retrieve 140 traps each week traveling more than 700 miles. So far this season, we have trapped, sorted and identified tens of thousands of mosquitoes and sent select species to the State Lab for testing. As of this update, we know of one batch of mosquitoes that has been found carrying West Nile Virus (WNV) in New Hampshire. Those mosquitoes were trapped in Manchester.

Crews treated tens of thousands of catch basins in southeastern New Hampshire last month. Catch basin programs target mosquito species that carry WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Treatments aim to keep mosquito larvae from emerging into winged adults that can spread disease to humans.

In addition to sites Dragon crews treat, residential yards are a significant source of mosquitoes in a community. Please stay vigilant about checking areas around your homes and dumping out standing water after each rain event. If we all do our part, we can continue to reduce the numbers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diana Eddins-Wiggin, Vice President
Dragon Mosquito Control
www.dragonmosquito.com